

VIHA Health Facts



February 20, 2012

COWICHAN LODGE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

COWICHAN VALLEY – Since the Fall of 2009 The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) has been working in partnership with the Cowichan Communities Health Network for the future of the Cowichan Lodge facility. The Cowichan Communities Health Network is made up of representatives from non-profit groups, local government, community service providers, First Nations and other stakeholders.

Project Status

In June 2010, VIHA announced plans to locate high-level mental health services for seniors and adults (Wings A and C) of the Lodge following recommendations by the Cowichan Communities Health Network.

These two wings will include 51 tertiary psychiatric care beds; 24 beds will serve seniors and 27 beds will serve other adults. Priority for these services will be given to residents of Central Vancouver Island.

An open house was held on July 18, 2011 at Cowichan Lodge to provide information to the public on the renovation projects.

On July 21, 2011, an Invitation to Bid was issued and subsequently awarded for General, Mechanical and Electrical Contractors. Construction started in October 2011 with occupancy planned for January, 2013.

The budget for these high-level mental health services for seniors and adults (Wings A and C) is \$9M and includes \$500,000 from the Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital District for building improvements.

VIHA Mental Health and Addictions Services are also developing a Good Neighbour Agreement to share information and provide a way to address any potential concerns from the public and stakeholders.

Next Steps

- VIHA continues to work with local stakeholders to determine the uses of the remaining Wings B and D of the Lodge.

- Proposals for the uses of Wings B and D will be reviewed and vetted by two committees made up of local stakeholders (the Cowichan Lodge Working Committee and the Cowichan Lodge Redevelopment Committee).
- VIHA will also assess the feasibility of the final proposals taking into account issues such as space requirements, construction needs, affordability and sustainability of the services to meet the long term health needs of the community.

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